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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
SERVICE AND  
CONSERVATION CORPS**

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**“I’m not going to  
college, so why  
would I want an  
AmeriCorps  
Education Award?”**

**Non-Traditional Uses  
of the Ed Award**

**Second Edition—June 2006**

*NASCC Corps strengthen the fabric of America by  
revitalizing communities, preserving and restoring the environment,  
preparing youth for responsible productive lives  
and building civic spirit through service.*

*The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) currently  
administers multi-state national direct AmeriCorps programs in addition to a large  
national Education Awards Program. Since 2000 over 15,000 members from  
75 corps across the country have enrolled in NASCC's Ed Awards Program.*

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**"Working with such a diverse population,  
particularly in crisis situations, during my  
AmeriCorps term at the Red Cross taught me not  
only responsibility and a sense of dedication to the  
community in which I live- but also solidified my  
ideas on wanting to go into a 'helping profession'".**

**- Chantelle Patton,  
Fresno Local Conservation Corps**



Research for this publication was based solely on anecdotes by former  
corpsmembers and information currently available and easily accessible. The research  
on different types of education award usage and educational institutions was done through  
the U.S. Department of Education website and the Internet.

*Second edition - May 2006*

# INTRODUCTION

This document and its accompanying brochure were designed to address the needs of those corpsmembers who don't plan to continue their education in a traditional four-year degree program. Not only can this serve as a tool to encourage current corpsmembers to join NASCC's Education Awards Program, but it may be used as a recruitment tool as well. By sharing this information with your corpsmembers, everyone is given the opportunity to make an informed decision about his/her future. NASCC member corps have permission to copy these documents for their corpsmembers.

## Why Should I enroll in the AmeriCorps Ed Awards Program?

It's a great way to achieve the goals that fit the diverse lifestyles of young adults. Career options range from Auto Mechanics to Chefs or Message Therapists.

## What if I don't plan to continue my education?

You have seven years to use the ed award. Once you've completed your term in the Corps, you may feel differently. Or, you may want to work for a year or so after leaving the Corps and before using your education award. You have time to think about your future, so why not go for it!

# ABOUT YOUR EDUCATION AWARD

Upon successful completion of your term of service as an AmeriCorps member, you are eligible for an education award to help pay for authorized educational expenses or to repay qualified student loans. The National Service Trust (the Trust) administers the award. The Trust is a fund established by Congress that is used to pay for education awards and interest that accrues on qualified student loans for those who have completed approved terms of service. The Office of the National Service Trust is the office within the Corporation that manages all the various functions related to the education award. This information can be found on the AmeriCorps website at: [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_individuals/benefits/benefits\\_ed\\_award.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/benefits_ed_award.asp)

## AWARD LIMITATIONS

Under no circumstances will an individual be eligible to receive more than two AmeriCorps Education Awards. Awards can be earned during the first two terms of national service. You are eligible to receive one award for each of your first two terms of service, regardless of the length of the term. Full-time, half-time, reduced half-time, quarter time, and minimum time terms of service each count as one term of service. Generally, if you are released for cause before completing your term of service and do not receive an education award, that term of service counts as one of your two terms.

In addition, you cannot transfer the education award to any other individual. The Trust does not make payments to anyone other than qualified schools and loan holders. See your financial aid counselor for information on how disbursements and reimbursements are handled.

If you withdraw from the school at which you have used the education award, the school may be required to refund the Trust. If any refund is owed, it is credited to your education award "account," and is subject to the seven-year time limit. For general information on how withdrawing from school may affect your student financial aid, go to U.S. Department of Education's Student Guidebook.

Under certain circumstances, you can use the education award to study outside the United States. Contact the **National Service Trust** at 1-888-507-5962 for further information.

You have seven years to use the education award from the date of your completion of service. You can use portions of your award at different times, as long as it is for authorized expenditures and within the specified time period. You could, for example, apply a portion of the award to existing qualified student loans, and save the remainder to pay for authorized college costs a few years down the road.

### **EXTEND THE 7-YEAR DEADLINE**

By law, you have seven years within which to use your AmeriCorps Education Awards. The period begins the date you complete your term of service in AmeriCorps. This time limit may be extended if certain circumstances have prevented the award from being used during this time period. These circumstances can include:

- Performing another term of service in AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps during the seven year period; or
- Being unavoidably prevented from using the award during the seven-year period. Examples of unavoidable situations which may warrant extensions include serious illness or disability, military service, death of a family member, or important service records being destroyed or inaccessible by the program. Any period of incarceration as a result of a conviction of a criminal offense will not be considered an unavoidable situation.

You must request the extension in writing before the end of the seven-year period. The request can be either by mail or can be made electronically. A notice will be mailed to all members prior to the end of their seven-year period reminding them of the expiration of their awards.

For further information on how to request this extension, contact the National Service Trust toll-free at 1-888-507-5962.

### **USING THE AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD**

You can use your AmeriCorps Education Award in any of the following ways—or a combination of them.

#### **Repay Qualified Student Loans**

The national service legislation defines *qualified student loan* as a loan backed by the federal government under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (except PLUS Loans to parents of students), or under Titles VII or VIII of the Public Health Service Act.

You may also use your AmeriCorps Education Award to repay a student loan made by a state agency, including state institutions of higher education.

AmeriCorps Education Awards may not be used to repay any other type of loan, even those obtained for educational purposes. You can use your AmeriCorps Education Award to repay defaulted student loans as long as the loans meet the definition of *qualified student loan*.

### **Pay Current Educational Expenses at a Qualified School**

*Current educational expenses*, as authorized under 42 U.S.C. § 12604(c), include:

The "Cost of Attendance" for a degree- or certificate-granting program of study at a qualified school and educational expenses for non-degree courses offered by qualified schools, such as continuing education courses. Your school is qualified if it is a Title IV institution of higher education. This includes most colleges and universities, and includes graduate schools. For Title IV schools, go to: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/fotw0607/fslookup.htm>

CNCS also suggests you check this link for the most up-to-date list of schools that match the Education Award. <http://lifetimeofservice.youralumni.com/?Education>

### **Pay Current Educational Expenses While Participating in an Approved School-to-Work Program**

*Current educational expenses* are expenses that were incurred after you became an AmeriCorps member. Current educational expenses are based on:

The "Cost of Attendance" for a degree or certificate-granting program at a qualified school and Educational expenses for non-degree courses, such as continuing education courses offered by qualified schools.

For credit or degree courses, the "cost of attendance" may include tuition, books and supplies, transportation, room and board, and other expenses. Each school's financial aid office determines a student's cost of attendance based upon standard U.S. Department of Education guidance.

## **TAX IMPLICATIONS**

### **AmeriCorps Education Award**

The AmeriCorps Education Award, unlike most other forms of scholarships and fellowships, is subject to federal tax in the year the Trust pays the voucher. Living allowances you received during your term of service and any interest the Trust pays on qualified student loans are also subject to income taxes in the years they were paid. When and how much of the education award you redeem may have an impact on your overall income tax responsibility.

If the Trust makes a payment on qualified student loans to your school or lender for the entire amount of a full-time education award in one calendar year, you will be responsible for any income taxes owed in that calendar year on that \$4,725. If you redeem only a portion of your education award in one calendar year, you will be responsible for any taxes owed on that portion. The interest payments made on postponed qualified student loans are subject to income taxes in the calendar year in which the Trust makes the payments to the lender.

The Trust **DOES NOT** deduct taxes from your education award or interest payments. After the calendar year in which they paid your education award or interest payments, they send you a Form 1099 to be used in preparing your income tax return. The total sum of interest payments and the AmeriCorps Education Award are listed together on the 1099 form.

**Living Allowance**

You are responsible for any income taxes owed on any AmeriCorps living allowances you receive. The living allowance amount received in a calendar year is subject to income taxes for that calendar year. For example, if you receive half of your \$10,000 living allowance in 2005 and half in year 2006, the \$5,000 received in 2005 is subject to 2005 income taxes, and the \$5,000 received in 2006 is subject to 2006 income taxes.

After the calendar year in which you earned a living allowance, your AmeriCorps project will send you a W-2 form indicating the amount of the allowance that you earned in that year.

**Tax relief**

While you are responsible for taxes on your education award and other AmeriCorps benefits, you may be eligible for other tax relief through the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. Issues about income taxes are very complicated. The important point to remember is that you should consider the tax consequences of any decisions you make about when and how to use your education award. Contact a tax professional or the **Internal Revenue Service** for details.

**AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD ACCOUNT BALANCE**

*Below is an excerpt from the AmeriCorps website (obviously you can't click here to register) you must go to: [http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_individuals/alumni/education\\_award\\_balance.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/alumni/education_award_balance.asp)*

AmeriCorps members who have completed their term of service can view their account activity through an online system. With a few simple clicks, you can check whether a payment has been made, when it was paid, and the remaining balance of your AmeriCorps Education Award.

To register for this service, you must click the link below, and then type in your Social Security Number, first and last names, date of birth, and e-mail address. After we have confirmed that you have completed your service and have established an account in the National Service Trust, they will send your Account Number and Personal Identification Number (PIN) to the e-mail address you supplied. You will need both to get a report of your account balance and status.

Currently, the system allows you to check your balance and view past activity. In the future, CNCS hopes to add features that will allow you to transfer funds to qualified educational institutions.

***Remember, members do not have accounts until they have completed their term of service.***

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What can the education award be used for?**

You can use your education award in the following ways, or a combination of them:

- to repay qualified existing or future student loans;
- to pay all or part of the current education expenses to attend a qualified institution of higher education (including certain vocational programs); or
- to pay expenses while participating in an approved school-to-work program.

## **Which colleges and universities are "qualified institutions"?**

You can use your education award at most institutions of higher education (including graduate and professional programs), as well as some vocational schools. An institution is considered qualified for the education award if it is a Title IV school, which means it has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education making its students eligible for at least one of the federally backed forms of financial assistance (such as Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, National Direct Loans, and Federal Consolidated Loans). To make sure the institution you want to attend is qualified, check with the financial aid office to make sure the school is a Title IV institution before you make specific plans.

## **What types of loans can the education award repay?**

Most postsecondary loans that are backed by the federal government are qualified for repayment with an AmeriCorps education award. Also, loans that are made by state agencies, including state colleges and universities are now qualified. Your lender should be able to tell you if your loan is qualified. Qualified loans include:

- Stafford Loans
- Perkins Loans
- William D. Ford Direct Loans Federal Consolidated Loans
- Supplemental Loans for Students
- Primary Care Loans
- Nursing Student Loans
- Health Education Assistance Loans
- Loans issued to AmeriCorps members by the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Ed.

## **What are "current educational expenses"?**

Current educational expenses are expenses that were incurred after you became an AmeriCorps member. Current educational expenses are based on:

The "cost of attendance" for a degree or certificate-granting program at a qualified school and Educational expenses for non-degree courses, such as continuing education courses offered by qualified schools.

For credit or degree courses, the cost of attendance may include tuition, books and supplies, transportation, room and board, and other expenses. Each school's financial aid office determines a student's cost of attendance based upon standard U.S. Department of Education guidance.

## **When can you use your education award?**

You can use your education award any time after you receive your voucher -- up to seven years after the date you end your service. You can apply for an extension if:  
you are unable to use the award for some reason during that time; or  
you perform another term of service in an approved program.

To be considered for an extension, you must apply before the end of the seven year period.

## **Is the education award taxable?**

Yes. You will be taxed on your education award in the year you use it. For example, if you use all or part of your award for college in the fall of 2006, when you file your 2006 taxes, you must pay taxes on the portion of the award you used.

You may be able to take advantage of the Hope Scholarship Credit or the Lifelong Learning Credit. Those credits may provide you with significant tax relief. Both the Department of Education and the Internal Revenue Service have information on these tax provisions. The Corporation for National and Community Service does not withhold taxes from the award. By the end of January the Corporation will send a 1099 form to all AmeriCorps members who have made payments from their education awards and for whom interest payments have been made during the previous year. The 1099 form does not need to be included in your tax return, but it reflects the amount that the National Service Trust reports to the IRS as taxable miscellaneous income.

## **What about paying student loans during your term of service?**

You may be eligible for forbearance for your qualified student loans from your loan holder. During a period of forbearance, you do not have to make payments, although interest continues to accumulate on your loans. If you qualified for loan forbearance and completed the appropriate form at the beginning of your term of service and receive an education award, AmeriCorps will pay all or a portion of the interest that accrued on your qualified student loan during your service. This amount is in addition to your education award.

## **Looking for your W-2?**

AmeriCorps\*State and National members will receive their W-2 from the Program or Corps in which you served.

AmeriCorps\*VISTA and AmeriCorps\*NCCC members will receive their W-2 from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

## **Who do I contact with questions about my Award?**

Please contact the National Service Trust at **1-888-507-5962**. The Trust is staffed by live operators from 8:00-6:00 EST.

For duplicate vouchers, and report a change of address, you can e-mail the Trust at [edawardvoucher@cns.gov](mailto:edawardvoucher@cns.gov)



# Sample College Listing

**Some schools and technical institutes specialize in one subject while others offer a wide range of training. Take for instance the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, PA ([www.pct.edu](http://www.pct.edu)). They offer Bachelor of Science degrees, Associate degrees and certificates. Here are some of the fields of interest offered:**

**Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degrees** focus on applied technology including automotive technology management; aviation maintenance technology; building automation technology; computer-aided product design; computer information technology (concentrations in IT security specialist, network specialist, technical support specialist, and Web and applications development); construction management; culinary arts technology; dental hygiene (concentrations in health policy and administration and special population care); electronics engineering technology; environmental technology management; graphic communications management; graphic design; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) technology; legal assistant/paralegal studies; manufacturing engineering technology; nursing; physician assistant studies; residential construction technology and management; technology management; and welding and fabrication engineering technology.

**Associate degrees (A.A.S., A.A.A., A.A., or A.S.)** include advertising art; automotive service sales and marketing; automotive technology (including Ford and Toyota industry-sponsored majors); aviation technology; baking and pastry arts; building construction technology; building construction technology (masonry emphasis); collision repair technology; computer information systems (emphases in Cisco technology, information technology technician, network technology, technical support technology, and Web and applications technology); culinary arts technology; dental hygiene; diesel technology (including a Mack Trucks industry-sponsored major); electric power generation technology; electrical technology; electromechanical maintenance technology; electronics technology (emphases in Cisco systems, communications/fiber optics, computer-automation maintenance, electronics engineering technology, industrial process control, and semiconductor processing technology); environmental technology; floral design/interior plantscape; forest technology; graphic communications technology; health arts; health information technology; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) technology; heavy construction equipment technology (emphases in Caterpillar industry-sponsored, operator, or technician); hospitality management; human services; individual studies; landscape/nursery technology; landscape/nursery technology (turfgrass management emphasis); legal assistant (paralegal) studies; mass media communication; nursing; occupational therapy assistant; office information technology (emphases in medical office information, specialized office information, or Web design); paramedic technology; physical fitness specialist; toolmaking technology; and welding technology.

**Certificate majors** are offered in automotive service technician, aviation maintenance technician, cabinetmaking and millwork, collision repair technician, computer applications technology, construction carpentry, diesel technician, electrical occupations, machinist general, plumbing, practical nursing, and welding.

# College Search

With today's technology there are many internet sites that give you the opportunity to search for the school you want based on your interests. Whether you want to become a barber, fashion model, pilot, entertainer, truck driver, or professional chef, you can search for schools that offer those types of courses! Check these websites for your area of interest. You can also "Google" a type of school for additional listings. Once you've found the right school, check U.S.

Department of Education Title IV Schools at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/fotw0607/fslookup.htm> to make sure it is a Title IV school (so you can use the voucher).

## **www.petersons.com**

- Education Search
- Colleges & Universities
- General Search
- Keyword Search – enter the subject you want to study (i.e. automotive) -click Results  
A list of schools offering that subject will appear- click on one for detailed information.

## **www.collegeboard.com**

- College Quick finder
- Advanced Search
- Choose the type of search you want (i.e. Majors & Academics)
- Next to #1 enter the subject you want to study (i.e. pilot) and click "go".
- Next to #2 they may offer more specific majors in that field. You can highlight one or two of those majors and then click "add to list" or you can choose click "add all" and search for schools that offer each of those specific majors.
- As you scroll down you will see other search options that you can choose to better find a school that suits your needs. You can continue to narrow your college search by choosing some of these options, or if you just want to search by the subject go to the end of the page and click "see results".
- A list of schools that provide courses for the subject you entered will then appear. Click on a school for detailed information.

## **www.collegeview.com**

- College Search
- Pick the type of search you want – for example, if you want to search by subject click "Areas of Study"
- Next there will be a listing of subjects to choose from – click one
- There will then be a listing of specific majors within that area of study – click the major or majors you want to study and hit "add." Once you have chosen all of the majors within that area of study go to the bottom and click "search now"
- A list of schools that provide courses for the subject you entered will then appear- click on a school for detailed information.

Although we have given you specific steps to search by subject, take time to look around on these sites because they offer a lot of valuable resources, and other search options for anyone getting acquainted with the college search. Good luck!

# **THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN A PARTIAL LISTING OF TITLE IV INSTITUTIONS FOR Non-TRADITIONAL USES OF THE AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Salaries listed in this publication are industry national average starting salaries in Los Angeles, California, so these will vary across the United States. We were only able to list salaries for a few of the career options mentioned in this publication.

We've only scratched the surface on the curriculum and career options and only listed a random sampling of schools. Check the Title IV listings and other websites provided in this document for schools in your area and what they have to offer.

## **Resources**

### **About the Education Award**

[http://www.americorps.gov/for\\_individuals/benefits/benefits\\_ed\\_award.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/benefits_ed_award.asp)

### **U.S. Department of Education Title IV Schools**

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/fotw0607/fslookup.htm>

### **Schools that Match the Ed Award**

<http://lifetimeofservice.youralumni.com/?Education>

### **To search schools by subject, try these websites**

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

[www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com)

### **For more information about AmeriCorps contact the Corporation for National and Community Service**

1-888-507-5962 or [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)

# THE ARTS: ACTING/THEATER DESIGN & STAGECRAFT/ FILMAKING SCHOOL/COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

## Program Terms

- ♦ Range from a six-week intensive Shakespeare program to a full two-year conservatory program
- ♦ AADA programs range from a 6-week summer program to a two or three year professional training program.

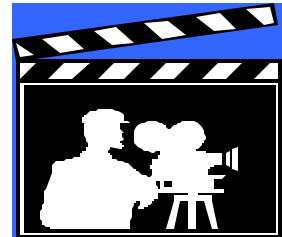
## Curriculum

- ♦ Conservatory program includes every fundamental aspect of acting
- ♦ Learn different techniques of acting, improvisation, voice and speech control and stage combat

## Career Options

- ♦ Theatre companies from NY to Hollywood
- ♦ Television Industry
- ♦ Movie Industry

| Starting annual salary |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Actor/Performer        | \$ 41,000 |
| Videographer           | \$ 38,000 |
| Set Designer           | \$ 34,000 |



## Sample Schools

**Allan Hancock College - Santa Maria, CA**  
[www.hancockcollege.edu](http://www.hancockcollege.edu)

**American Academy of Dramatic Arts (AADA) - NY and Hollywood**  
[www.aada.org](http://www.aada.org)

**Brevard Community College - Cocoa, FL (Photography)**  
[www.brevard.cc.fl.us](http://www.brevard.cc.fl.us)

**Brooks Institute of Photography - Santa Barbara, CA**  
888-394-3456 (also video and filmmaking)

**Central Lakes College - Brainerd, MN (theater design)**  
[www.clcmn.edu](http://www.clcmn.edu)

**College of Santa Fe - NM**  
[www.csf.edu](http://www.csf.edu)

**Stella Adler Studio of Acting - NY**  
[www.stellaadler.com](http://www.stellaadler.com)

# AUTOMOTIVE SCHOOLS



## Program Terms:

- ♦ Range from seven months for certification programs to approximately two years for the degree programs
- ♦ Basic 45-week automotive technology program to a full 57-week race car mechanic program at the NASCAR Technical Institute

## Curriculum:

- ♦ Programs in Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, Autotronics Technology, Collision Repair and for Automotive Service Technicians.
- ♦ Prepare for employment with automobile dealerships, fleet operators, automotive specialty shops, mass merchandisers, and independent retailers.
- ♦ Learn operational theory, diagnostic procedures, and industry accepted methods of service and repair of current automotive systems

## Career Options:

- ♦ Certificate holders: Automotive apprentices or general line technicians
- ♦ Diploma or Degree holders: Engine specialists or shop foremen
- ♦ NASCAR pit crew

### Starting annual salary

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Winston Cup Team Mechanic (entry level) | \$ 24,000 |
| Automotive Maintenance Repairer         | \$ 36,000 |
| Diesel Engine Mechanic                  | \$ 35,000 |



## Sample Schools

**Albuquerque Technical-Vocational Institute - NM**  
[www.tvi.edu](http://www.tvi.edu)

**Arizona Automotive Institute**  
[www.azautoinst.com](http://www.azautoinst.com)

**Automotive Training Center - PA**  
[www.autotraining.com](http://www.autotraining.com)

**Denver Automotive & Diesel College - CO**  
[www.dadc.com](http://www.dadc.com)

**Glen Oaks Community College - MI**  
[www.glenoaks.cc.mi.us](http://www.glenoaks.cc.mi.us)

**NASCAR Technical Institute - NC**  
[www.ntieducation.com](http://www.ntieducation.com)

His goal was to be a certified auto mechanic. In 16 months with the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps Justin Eppeley earned two education awards, completed basic and advanced auto mechanics courses, and was mentored by the mechanics at the local Chevrolet dealership. Justin left the Corps in early 2005 for a full-time position with the dealership. The following summer, he entered the Community College of Allegheny County to pursue an associate's degree in auto mechanics which was paid in full by his employer. Justin's crewleader, Floyd Blough, said, "If anyone has ever used our program to ... better their life and to advance and start a career, it's Justin."

# BEAUTY/COSMETOLOGY SCHOOLS

## Program Terms

- ♦ Most certification programs last for less than a year.

## Curriculum

- ♦ Prepare students for successful completion of the State Board Licensing Examination which is required for the practice of cosmetology.
- ♦ Students learn creative hair styling, hair design, and application of cosmetics to the skin, hair, and scalp.

## Career Options

- ♦ Manicurist
- ♦ Skincare specialist
- ♦ Electrolysis technician
- ♦ Hair stylist
- ♦ Make-up artist

| Starting annual salary |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Cosmetologist          | \$ 19,500 |
| Hairdresser            | \$ 25,537 |
| Manicurist             | \$ 22,643 |

## Sample Schools

### **Brevard Community College - FL**

[www.brevard.cc.fl.us](http://www.brevard.cc.fl.us)

### **Empire Beauty Schools**

**(32 campuses in PA, NJ, GA & MD)**

[www.empirebeauty.com](http://www.empirebeauty.com)

### **Manchester Beauty College - Fresno, CA**

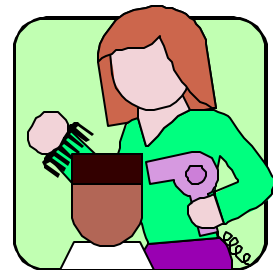
(559) 224-4242

### **Minnesota School of Cosmetology - Oakdale**

[www.trade-schools.net/minnesota-school-of-cosmetology/default.asp](http://www.trade-schools.net/minnesota-school-of-cosmetology/default.asp)

### **Model College of Hair Design - Saint Cloud, MN**

[www.Modelcollegeofhairdesign.com](http://www.Modelcollegeofhairdesign.com)



# BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION, ELECTRICAL

## Program Terms

- ♦ Academic and technical programs are offered.

## Curriculum

- ♦ No information available.

## Career Options

- ♦ Carpenter
- ♦ Construction worker for homes or commercial buildings
- ♦ Brick and Stone Mason
- ♦ Electrician or HVAC Mechanic

| Starting annual salary |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Carpenter              | \$ 43,000 |
| Drywall Installer      | \$ 35,000 |
| Electrician            | \$ 44,000 |
| HVAC Mechanic          | \$ 47,000 |

## Sample School

**Allan Hancock College - Santa Maria, CA**  
[www.hancockcollege.edu](http://www.hancockcollege.edu)

**Brevard Community College - Cocoa, FL**  
[www.brevard.cc.fl.us](http://www.brevard.cc.fl.us)

**Community College of Denver - CO**  
(303) 556-2430 or (303)-556-2600

**State University of New York College of Technology at Delhi**  
(607) 746-4558 [enroll@delhi.edu](mailto:enroll@delhi.edu)



# CULINARY SCHOOLS

## Program Terms

- ♦ Associate degree programs typically run for about 12 to 15 months and career options include working as gourmet chef and variety of jobs in the hospitality and culinary industry.

## Curriculum

- ♦ Intensive courses for Baking and Pastry Arts certification
- ♦ Associate of Occupational Studies degree in Culinary Arts
- ♦ Externship programs to complement the academic program to gain real-world cooking experience by training in some of the most prestigious restaurants and hotels in the country

## Career Options

- ♦ Chef (sous chef, pastry chef, or other at restaurants, hotels, resorts, spas, schools)
- ♦ Baker
- ♦ Restaurateur
- ♦ Caterer

| Starting annual salary |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Baker                  | \$ 26,000 |
| Cook                   | \$ 31,000 |
| Chef - Sous            | \$ 36,500 |
| Pastry Chef            | \$ 53,000 |

## Sample Schools

### California Culinary Academy - CA

[www.baychef.com](http://www.baychef.com)

### Quality College of Culinary Careers - Fresno, CA

[www.qualityschool.com](http://www.qualityschool.com).

### Scottsdale Culinary Institute - AZ

[www.scichefs.com](http://www.scichefs.com)

### The Culinary Institute of America - NY

[www.ciachef.edu](http://www.ciachef.edu)





# DANCE SCHOOL

## Program Terms

- ♦ Range from the six-week summer intensive program to the three-year professional program.

## Curriculum

- ♦ Courses include training in different types of dance, such as tap, ballet, jazz, modern, African, Irish step dance and swing.
- ♦ Other academic courses include dance history and music theory.
- ♦ U of MN employs local dance artists with national and international reputations to teach the students. Students give many local performances throughout the year.

## Career Options

- ♦ Dance companies
- ♦ On and Off Broadway shows
- ♦ Back-up dancers for singers
- ♦ Choreographer
- ♦ Dance teacher
- ♦ Music videos
- ♦ Movies and Television

| Starting annual salary |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Choreographer          | \$ 45,000 |
| Dance Instructor       | \$ 33,000 |

## Sample Schools

### Dance Theatre of Harlem - NY

[www.dancetheatreofharlem.com](http://www.dancetheatreofharlem.com)

### Towson University - Towson, MD

[www.discover.towson.edu](http://www.discover.towson.edu)

### University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Campus

(800) 752-1000



# Emergency Medical Technician (Basic Training)

## Program Terms

- ♦ Typically four months (120 hours) of classroom and field training plus in-hospital observation and training - for EMT.

## Curriculum

- ♦ Training in emergency medical care with an ambulance service.
- ♦ Anatomy, physiology and treatment of medical illnesses and traumatic injuries frequently encountered in pre-hospital settings.
- ♦ Covers patient assessment, stabilization, treatment and transport.
- ♦ Assistance in preparing for the EMT state-certification exam.
- ♦ Certificate program prepares students for safe, dependable, and prompt performance of a firefighter's tasks during emergencies and in the fire station. Students learn the about the organization and operations of fire service, proper use of fire equipment, tactics and strategies of fire fighting, specialized job skills, and management techniques.

## Career Options

- ♦ Emergency Medical Technician with an ambulance service
- ♦ Firefighter
- ♦ Paramedic

| Starting annual salary       |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Emergency Medical Technician | \$ 27,000 |
| Firefighter                  | \$ 35,000 |
| Ambulance Driver             | \$ 24,000 |

## Sample Schools

Many community and technical colleges offer EMT courses.  
Check with local colleges for course availability.

### Central Lakes College - Brainerd, MN

[www.clcmn.edu](http://www.clcmn.edu)

### Erie Community College – Buffalo, NY

[www.sunyerie.edu](http://www.sunyerie.edu)

### Merritt College – CA

[www.merritt.edu](http://www.merritt.edu)

### Modesto Junior College - CA (firefighting)

[www.mjc.edu](http://www.mjc.edu)

### Yakima Valley Community College - WA (firefighting)

[www.ycvc.edu](http://www.ycvc.edu)



# Massage Therapy Schools

## Program Terms

- ♦ Range from nine to sixteen months, depending on the amount of coursework for a Diploma in Professional Massage Therapy.

## Curriculum

- ♦ Courses include massage techniques from all around the world, lessons in human anatomy and physiology, acupuncture, and uses of alternative medicine.

## Career Options

- ♦ Work for a professional sports team
- ♦ Work at a Hotel or Spa
- ♦ Own your own business



### Starting annual salary

Massage Therapist     \$ 30,000-40,000  
(\$45 to \$65/hr for private practice)

## Sample Schools

### **Apollo College - Phoenix & Tucson, AZ**

[www.apollocollege.edu](http://www.apollocollege.edu)

### **Ashmead College School of Massage - Seattle, WA**

[www.ashmeadcollege.edu-career.org/](http://www.ashmeadcollege.edu-career.org/)

### **Cincinnati State Technical & Community College - OH**

[www.cincinnatiastate.edu](http://www.cincinnatiastate.edu)

### **Florida Career College - Miami**

[www.careercollege.edu](http://www.careercollege.edu)

### **Lakeside School of Massage Therapy - Madison & Milwaukee, WI**

[www.lakesideschoolmassage.org](http://www.lakesideschoolmassage.org)

### **New York Institute of Massage - Buffalo**

[www.nyinstituteofmassage.com](http://www.nyinstituteofmassage.com)

# MORTUARY SCIENCE SCHOOL

## Program Terms

- ♦ Range from an accelerated one year Associate Degree program to a three and a half year Degree program.

## Curriculum

- ♦ Academic courses include embalming theory, cremation fundamentals, restorative art and funeral planning.

## Career Options

- ♦ Medical examiner's office
- ♦ Hospital morgue
- ♦ Funeral home

| Starting annual salary |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Medical Assistant      | \$ 27,000 |
| Morgue Attendant       | \$ 28,000 |
| Embalmer               | \$ 34,000 |
| Funeral Manager        | \$ 42,000 |

## Sample Schools

**The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science - OH**  
[www.ccms.edu](http://www.ccms.edu)

**Mesa Community College - AZ**  
[www.mc.maricopa.edu](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu)

**San Francisco College of Mortuary Science - CA**  
[www.sfcms.org](http://www.sfcms.org)



# NATURAL RESOURCES, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY



## Program Terms

- ♦ Many programs are only two years.

## Curriculum

- ♦ Develop skills and knowledge in animal/plant science and I.D., mechanics, communications, public relations, and computations specific to become a park ranger.
- ♦ Survey of natural resources, their importance to society and ecological principles of resource conservation; identification, conservation, and use of renewable and non-renewable resources.
- ♦ Forestry as an industry and basic skills in forest production and ecology, including fire protection, cruising, scaling, tree planting, nursery practices, harvesting, forest engineering, use of forest land for recreational purposes

## Career Options

- ♦ Work in various Federal agencies i.e. National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service or in State Parks and other agencies around the country

| Starting annual salary |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Forester               | \$ 46,000 |
| Park Ranger            | \$ 40,000 |
| Park Naturalist        | \$ 36,000 |

**"I plan to use my ed award to complete a 4-year degree to become a Park Ranger."  
- Brad Staab, Washington State Parks, 2002-03**

**His diligence paid off! Brad was hired as a Park Ranger 1 at Twin Harbors State Park in Westport, Washington, on February 23, 2006. The photo shows him in May doing a vertical jump as part of a Physical Fitness Assessment that rangers voluntarily participate in once a year.**

## Sample School

### Central Oregon Community College - Bend

[www.cocc.edu](http://www.cocc.edu)

### Dixie State College of Utah - St. George

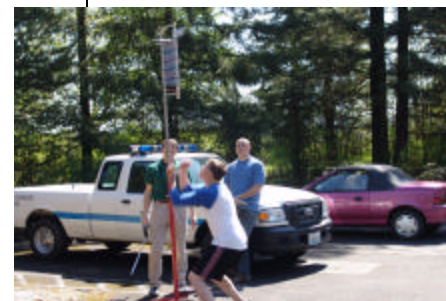
[www.dixie.edu](http://www.dixie.edu)

### Fort Peck Community College - Poplar, MT

[www.fpcc.edu](http://www.fpcc.edu)

### Modesto Junior College - CA

[www.mjc.edu](http://www.mjc.edu)



# Truck Driving Schools

## Program Terms

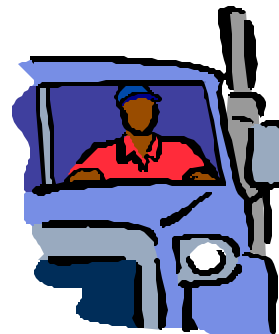
- ♦ Typically three to four weeks of Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Training or a Class B - Straight Truck course.

## Curriculum

- ♦ No information available.

## Career Options

- ♦ Trucking company
- ♦ Freelance trucker
- ♦ Manufacturing company
- ♦ Retail stores



### Starting annual salary

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Truck Driver                   | \$ 31,000 |
| Truck Driver (tractor-trailer) | \$ 37,000 |

## Sample Schools

**Alexandria Technical College - Alexandria, MN**  
[www.alextech.org](http://www.alextech.org)

**Diesel Institute of America - Baltimore, MD**  
[www.dieselinstitute.com](http://www.dieselinstitute.com)

**Hamrick Truck Driving School - Medina, OH**  
[www.hamricktruck.com](http://www.hamricktruck.com)

**HDS Truck Driving Institute - Tucson, AZ**  
[www.hdsdrivers.com](http://www.hdsdrivers.com)

**Waynesburg College - PA**  
[www.waynesburg.edu](http://www.waynesburg.edu)

# WELDING SCHOOLS

## Program Terms

- ♦ Range from a three month structural welding course to a fourteen month Associate of Occupational Studies in Welding Technology degree program.

## Curriculum

- ♦ No information available.

## Career Options

- ♦ Construction company
- ♦ Utility company
- ♦ Automotive industry
- ♦ Sculptor

| Starting annual salary |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Welder II              | \$ 37,000 |
| Pipe Fitter            | \$ 42,000 |

## Sample Schools

**ICT School of Welding - PA**  
[www.ictschoolofwelding.com](http://www.ictschoolofwelding.com)

**Hobart Institute of Welding Technology - OH**  
[www.welding.org](http://www.welding.org)

**New Castle School of Trades - Pulaski, PA**  
(800) 837-8299

